



Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update **May 2006**

The Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) is a partnership of [38 organizations](#) that conducts monitoring and analysis and develops potential corrective actions to address the low dissolved oxygen problem in Hood Canal. Following is a summary of HCDOP activities for May 2006.

Scientific Studies

- *Project update*
 - PSAT staff organized a two-day workshop to guide development of a scope of work for the onsite sewage nitrogen study. The University of Washington Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering will manage the study with participation by several HCDOP partners. The interagency agreement between PSAT and UW should be in place within two weeks.
 - Mason County Department of Health Services (MCDHS) is now sampling 12 locations for dissolved oxygen and nutrients.
- *New information*
 - KING-TV crew observed a significant greenish algal bloom during a fly-over of Hood Canal on Wednesday, May 31. HCDOP Citizen's Monitoring group had taken samples on Tuesday, May 30. Samples were analyzed by Pacific Shellfish Institute and reviewed by Dr. Rita Horner (UW). The event was identified as an euglenoid bloom (Euglenophyceae). Photos and explanatory text about this bloom have been posted on the HCDOP IAM website:
http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/observations/bloom_fishkill.jsp
 - USGS released three reports earlier this month: (1) Freshwater and Saline Loads of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen to Hood Canal and Lynch Cove, (2) Western Washington, Surface-Water Quality in Rivers and Drainage Basins Discharging to the Southern Part of Hood Canal, Mason and Kitsap Counties, and (3) Transport Pathways in the Lower Reaches of Hood Canal

Corrective Actions

- *Project update*
 - The Mason County Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Project team has sampled from Triton Head to Hoodsport, and Alderbrook to Hwy 106 Mile 10. They have not sampled from Hoodsport to Union as they intend to perform nutrient sampling in addition to fecal coliform sampling in this area.
 - Installation of all onsite sewage demonstration systems is complete and the final sampling event by Jefferson County Health staff will be conducted next week. Analysis of the work under the contract between PSAT and Jefferson County along with data for input into the IAM model should be available by mid-July.

- Terry Hull (PSAT) met with members of State Parks' interagency oversight group to review progress on improvements to wastewater treatment systems in various Puget Sound parks. Improvements at Twanoh State Park are a top construction priority and should be started later this summer. Improvements at Potlatch, Dosewallips, Belfair, and Kitsap Memorial are in various planning stages.
- Terry Hull (PSAT) met with HCCC and Shorebank Enterprise Pacific staff to discuss a proposed regional funding mechanism to help onsite sewage system owners obtain grants and loans to fix poorly functioning systems.
- Duane Fagergren (PSAT) drafted a letter on behalf of the interagency state team on Hood Canal to express the state's collective interest in assisting the staff and Board of County Commissioners in Mason County in whatever way they deem most appropriate.

Watershed Planning

- *WRIA 16 Watershed Plan* On May 11 the Planning Unit for the Skokomish – Dosewallips watershed unanimously approved the comprehensive watershed plan developed under the Watershed Planning Act (RCW 90.82). The meeting was hosted by the Skokomish Tribe (one of the Initiating Governments), and included the singing of traditional songs of blessing and thanks. The plan will go into effect when adopted by the Jefferson and Mason Boards of County Commissioners. Copies of the plan are available at Ecology's website:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/apps/watersheds/planning/16.html>

Outreach

- *Public education and outreach updates*
 - Shore Stewards and the Watershed Pledge provided an education booth for the two-day "Shrimpfest" in Brinnon over Memorial Day. Many new members signed up and a lot of interest was generated about the programs.
 - The second Annual Hood Canal Youth Summit was on May 31 at Twanoh State Park. It was funded by PSAT and hosted by Karen Lippys' Hood Canal Institute Students. Morning station presenters included: WSU Mason Extension, Mason County Health, UW Sea Grant, Arline Fullerton of the Hood Canal Divers and HCSEG. About 120 youth from around the Canal attended the event. Elaine Grinnel an Elder from Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe also attended.
 - The HCDOP Diver Observation Program is linking with efforts by PSAT to provide a marine organism ID workshop. The workshop is being developed with representatives from the REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) program and is being promoted by the HCWEN community.
 - A UW/Tacoma field course participated as part of the HCDOP Citizen's Monitoring program on May 12 and May 13. For more information visit their class webpage at <http://courses.washington.edu/uwtoce05/index.html>.
 - Jan Newton gave the UW-Applied Physics Lab departmental seminar on "Hood Canal's Low Dissolved Oxygen: Status and Controlling Factors" on June 1.
 - Several presentations about Hood Canal and hypoxia were given at the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography meeting in Victoria on June 9.
 - A number of state and local agencies and the Skokomish Tribe are working with the Lower Hood Canal Watershed Coalition to plan and support a "Clean Water

Festival” scheduled for July 22 at the Theler Center in Belfair. The tentative schedule includes presentations on the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program, “Blue Thumb Gardening,” Managing Residential Runoff, and Septic System Maintenance. Over a dozen display tables, staffed by various agencies and covering a wide range of topics, are also included in the program.

- Duane Fagergren, PSAT, Senator/Commissioner Tim Sheldon, Rep. Bill Eickmeyer, HCCC director Jay Watson, and Skokomish Tribal Natural Resources director, Keith Dublanica participated on a panel about Hood Canal for the Mason County League of Women Voters.
- Duane Fagergren met with Jonathan (Joth) Davis at the Port Gamble city site, owned by Pope Resources, to discuss possible research and education facilities at this historic place. Duane and Ron Shultz (PSAT) will meet with Pope Resources representatives and contractor, Lori Evans early in June to discuss further options for Port Gamble wastewater treatment, education, research, and conference facilities.
- *Public outreach needs*
 - Emily Piper and Toni Droscher are looking for contacts and locations to help distribute the Hood Canal NEWS postcards. Please contact Toni Droscher for more information: tdroscher@psat.wa.gov.
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
 - June 8: Annas Bay shellfish closure update meeting: 1-3pm Mason Conservation District. Contact Seth Book at Mason Health.
 - June 22: Hood Canal Watershed Education Network meeting, 1-4pm Kitsap County SSWM Annex. (Piper, HCWEN)
 - June 28: EPA is hosting a Watershed Webcast to Cover Social Marketing In Chesapeake Bay. For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/watershedwebcasts>.
 - July 22: Lower Hood Canal Clean Water Festival, Theler Center.

Communications

- *Media coverage*
 - A bloom event near Lilliwaup was observed from a KING5-TV news helicopter on Wednesday, May 31, and reported on the evening news in a story by Gary Chittim. The images of the bloom were incorporated into a news report about water quality issues surrounding Quartermaster Harbor on Vashon Island. The news report inaccurately linked the two events (toxic algae in Quartermaster Harbor but not in Hood Canal) and misquoted the high chlorophyll evident at the southern ORCA since February as being a year-long “green monster” bloom. See: <http://www.king5.com/localnews/environment/> (Toxic algae bloom spreads in Puget Sound). (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - *Eating Well to Save the Sound*, Washington State Magazine: <http://washington-state-magazine.wsu.edu/stories/2006/May/eatingwell.html>